
telstar



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

ISSUE 238 SEPTEMBER 2001

STARS Wins Trophy!

The Greater Buffalo Hamfest / ARRL Western NY Convention on August 5th included a "WNY Section Club Convention Champion 2001 Contest. Entering section clubs such as STARS, RAWNY, LARC, etc. competed in a half-hour 30 question club show down.

STARS won first place (highest score) in this event and was awarded a beautiful 25" tall trophy for WNY SECTION CONVENTION 2001 CHAMPIONS.

STARS club members on this academic team included Jay Clark KF2JY and his two sons Alex KC2GVO and James AB2MQ, Mark Barnack N2LAB and his son Joseph KC2HWC, Bob Koster KA2WYE, John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC and his son John N2OY.

Having just upgraded to his Amateur Extra class, James Clark AB2MQ will present the trophy to the Club members at the September STARS meeting .



September Meeting

This month's club meeting will begin at 7 PM on Thursday, September 6 at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.). All interested in amateur radio are invited to attend; neither club membership nor an amateur radio license is required.

We will be talking about a number of subjects including the Greater Buffalo Hamfest/ARRL Western New York Section Convention, the Erie County Fair Display, recent upgrades, amateur radio classes, etc.

Our special guest speaker will be Dean Messing of Erie County Emergency Services. This is an excellent opportunity to see how you could assist in an emergency.



Photo at left: ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bernie Fuller N3EFN (striped shirt) presents trophy to STARS team as ARRL Western New York Section Manager Scott Bauer W2LC (left) and ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director Bill Edgar N3LLR (right) look on. Pictured from left to right: Bauer, John Crawford, Sr. KB2VWC, Alex Clark KC2GVO, Jay Clark KF2JY, James Clark AB2MQ, Mark Barnack N2LAB, Joseph Barnack KC2HWC, John Crawford, Jr. N2OY, Fuller, Bob Koster KA2WYE and Edgar.

Note: Ball caps do a nice job of keeping the sun off of heads, but they also leave shadows on faces!

Story and picture submitted by Jay Clark KF2JY.

STARS & ARRL Memberships

Membership in STARS is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. A license is not required. Membership applications may be obtained by sending a SASE to Judy Levan N2TEZ, 120 University Blvd., Depew, NY 14043, from the newsletter editor or from board members.

Annual Dues are payable on January 1 and are \$21 for a single membership, \$27 for family memberships and \$8 for a student membership (through grade 12). The dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for new members plus there is an initiation fee of \$5 when first applying to the club. For example, a new member joining in July would pay \$10.50 (6 months X \$1.75 per month) plus the \$5 initiation fee for a total of \$15.50.



Applications should be returned to Judy N2TEZ along with the appropriate dues. The applications will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors at the business meeting. The applications are then voted on by the general membership at the next regular club meeting.

Members should send their ARRL renewal memberships to Jack Cullum, Jr. KB2ESM, 6871 Webster Rd., Orchard Park, NY 14127 along with a check made out to STARS. No extra cost to you and STARS benefits!

Club Nets

STARS club nets are open to all to exchange information on local amateur radio activities.

STARS WB2EZU Memorial HF net meets at 10 AM local time on Saturdays on 3.925 MHz +/- QRM.

STARS VHF net meets on Wednesday at 7:30 PM on STARS club repeater WB2ELW 147.09/.69 output/input—PL of 107.2 Hz).

Erie County Fair Report

Now that the Erie County Fair 2001 is over it is time to acknowledge all the people that helped out this year.

First off there is Keith KC2DGC who acted as Co-Chairman. Keith called half the Club members to get volunteers to man our display. Keith also helped set up the display and took many shifts and filled in where needed and passed out tickets. My personal thanks to you Keith for all your help.



John N2OY, who broke down our equipment at the Nike Base, so we could set it up again at the Fair. The PSK 31 that is running is from John's efforts. Even with College looming in John's near future and holding down a job, he still found the time to pull several shifts.

Bob, KA2WYE, did a fine tune on the display and made it look great. Bob, also helped pass out tickets and filled in where we were short on people to work.

Below is a list of volunteers that helped out at the Exhibit this year. The order that they appear in, is the order that they worked. Several took 2 or more shifts to help out. KC2DGC, KC2GZD, KB2VWA, KC2BSI, KB2VWC, K2CF, KC2CAG, N2OY, KD2QV, KC2AYK, AA2AA, KG4KQW, NW2I, WI2G, KC2HJS, KC2HJT, K2RWG, KB2KVA, KB2ESM, N2ING, KB2TDU, KB2JDB & CLASS FROM SCHOOL, N2LAB and KC2HWC.

I wish to thank Luke N2GDU from LARC for supporting the display this year. Luke worked the display and brought with him KC2GZY, KC2GVQ, Noah Levine and Jim Stefanick (no call) all of who worked several shifts.

If I missed anyone it was an over site, we kept the best records, with all the changes that were made, we could.

Next Year's Display

The certainty of next year's display is not as yet set in stone, as they say. There were some problems with the tenants of the building. With some negotiation from one of our members we seem to have a home for next year. There are several things that WILL need to be set in motion for the display next year. First, a new Chairperson. Second, a total revamp of the display. I heard some comments like, "Same

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Congratulations!

Congrats to STARS member Alex Clark, KC2GVO who upgraded from Technician w/ HF to General Class by passing written element 3 at the PROS test session in Sardinia on August 18th. Alex 's new General callsign is pending. Alex Clark is 9 yr old son of Jay Clark, KF2JY. Alex is determined to get his Amateur Extra class before he is 13 yrs old.

Alex's brother James Clark, AB2MQ formerly KC2GKB just earned his Extra at 13 yrs old.



Pat Murray, NW2I giving 9 yr old Alex Clark, KC2GVO his CSCE for General Class license.

From Your President

This month's column is going to be short, because most of what I had to say was in the Erie County Fair report. Right now we have scheduled Dean Messing of Erie County Emergency Services. to speak at our September meeting. With last winters snow emergencies we will need to get ready early, just incase we have a repeat of last year.

We are only a month away from nominations for Club officers, you will really need to start thinking about who you want to serve as your Club leaders for the year 2002. As I wrote a couple of months ago, it's time for the Club to move in a different direction, so I would say to all of you, find the time, GET involved.

Sincerely,

Gary
KB2YJ

Ellicottville, NY Children's 1st Fest August 18th and 19th, 2001

TO: ARRL

FROM: Evan R. Evans AA2AA

Several thousand young people together with parents and friends attended this event held in Ellicottville, NY; about 40 miles south of Buffalo. Ellicottville is the home of two very popular ski and winter sports areas as well as home for many biking, hiking, art, musical and educational activities on a year-round basis.

An Amateur Radio Station was one of the many popular activities available to young people. The station was operated in portable mode, with generator power, a Yaesu FT 920 and a four-band trap dipole 30 feet above the station tent. Two-way SSB contacts were made with other amateur stations in eight foreign countries as well as Canada and in seven states in the US. During all of the contacts, our young guests were given the opportunities to actually talk to with other Amateur Operators and upon completion of the contact, each of the guests were given a colored thumb tack and asked to insert the thumb tack in the location of the station on the ARRL World and US maps.



More than 50 young people stopped by the station, and most of them were able to actually talk to another Amateur Operator. Many more visitors took information about Amateur Radio thanks to promotional information as furnished by the ARRL and by the South Towns Amateur Radio Society (STARS). Great interest was generated in Amateur Radio. Plans are already underway for the addition of Digital mode and VHF communications for future Children's 1st Fests.

Thanks to ARRL especially for the Archie Ham Radio Adventures comic books, and the Boy and Girl Scout promotional material, and for the general Amateur Radio educational material.

Thank you,
Evan R. Evans, Amateur Radio AA2AA

FCC Wants Explanation For Alleged Interference During Declared Emergency

The FCC apparently wants to let the amateur community know that it intends to put teeth into its infrequent emergency declarations. The Commission has written William C. Dennison, K0VCD, seeking an explanation for interference it alleges the Springfield, Missouri, amateur caused to an emergency net after the FCC declared a general communications emergency on June 10.

In a letter to Dennison on August 16, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth called Dennison's apparent failure to abide by the emergency declaration "a serious breach of the amateur rules."

Because of severe flooding in Texas and Louisiana, the FCC had declared 3.873 and 7.285 MHz--plus or minus 3 kHz--off limits to all but flood emergency traffic. Agents say they monitored Dennison on 75 meters later that evening, operating in the vicinity of--and causing interference to--an emergency net. At one point, the FCC said, Dennison moved onto the net's frequency to challenge the net control station.

FCC agents at the Commission's High Frequency Direction Finding Facility in Columbia, Maryland, were maintaining a watch on 3.873 and 7.285 MHz when Dennison was heard. After determining that Dennison's signal--on 3.875 and subsequently 3.876 MHz--was interfering with the net, an FCC agent telephoned Dennison to make sure that he was aware of the communications emergency and requesting that he change frequency.

The FCC continued to monitor Dennison's signal "splattering onto the net" on 3.873 MHz, Hollingsworth said in his letter. Dennison is said to have commented on the air regarding the telephone call from the FCC, then moved to 3.873 MHz, where he contacted the emergency net control station to challenge the net's use of HF rather than 2 meters for the emergency traffic. Hollingsworth told ARRL that Dennison subsequently either moved away from the net's frequency or went off the air, and the net experienced no further problems.

Hollingsworth requested that Dennison, a General class licensee, respond to the letter within 20 days with a detailed explanation of his operation during the periods detailed in the letter.

The ARRL Letter 8/31/01

EC Fair Report

(Continued from page 2)

thing as last year." We will need to work on it NOT being the same as last year. Third, more interactions from the other area Clubs, with their display.

Trailer idea

If we do get moved next year, there was an idea that was proposed to me by one of our members. The idea is that we use a construction trailer and set it up as a mobile communications and info center. I did not think much of the idea at first, but then the next day another member told me of a 16-ft camping trailer that might be had for a song. That pushed me even further to think that maybe we can approach a Camping supply place to, and I love this word, "donate" a used trailer "that they cannot sell" as a public service gesture. I have a meeting set up with them next month to see if we can work out the details. If this works out, we could use it for Field Day, the Fair, Public demos at a Mall, Special events, ECT. I know there is not a lot of room in some of these, but if we could gut it out and put in operating positions it could work. I am not a wood person. What I do to a piece of wood, no tree should have been cut down for. So I would look to some of you that have the knowledge to help out.

In closing, we had over 120 Hams sign in, from as far away as Pahrump, NV. We handed out over 150 flyers for Classes. We handled many interference questions and questions about Ham radio in general. Many former STARS members who have moved out of town stopped by to say, HI. It has been a long 2 weeks, but it was worth it to see so many of our old friends stop in.

Sincerely,
Gary J Zanghi KB2YJ

STARS Board of Directors

President	Gary Zanghi	KB2YJ
Vice President	John Crawford, Sr.	KB2VWC
Treasurer	John Cullum, Jr.	KB2ESM
Fin. Secretary	Judy Levan	N2TEZ
Secretary	Keith Patterson	KC2DGC
Director	John Crawford, Jr.	N2OY
Director	Terri Karr	KB2TRS

President Gary Zanghi KB2YJ may be reached at Kb2yj@aol.com or by calling 549-8476

AMATEUR RADIO EXAMINATIONS

STARS will hold test sessions 9/15, 10/13, & 11/10 in 2001 and 1/12, 3/9, 5/11 & 7/13 in 2002 at Grace Lutheran Church (McKinley Pkwy. and Newton Road) in Hamburg. All candidates should report to the church by 9 AM. Walk-ins are allowed, but pre-registering will reduce time at exams. For information or to pre-register for STARS tests, contact Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865.

Lancaster ARC will be holding test sessions on the third Wednesday of each month at the Lancaster ARC Club House, 525 Pavement Road, Lancaster. For information on Lancaster exams, call Hal Cameron NH7R at 832-0031 or Bill Klepser WB2AIV at 839-3525.

ARATS will be holding test sessions on at 10 AM 9/8, 10/6, 11/3 & 12/1 in 2001 and 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4 & 6/1 in 2002 at the North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters at 495 Zimmerman St. For information on ARATS exams, call Vic Gadzik K2YW at 694-9738 (evenings) or 278-3830 (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM days).

PROS will be holding test sessions at 10 AM on the third Saturday of the month at the Sardinia Historical Society Building, Savage Road off Rte. 39 in Sardinia, NY. For information, contact Pat Murray NW2I at 652-8178.

Some exams do not allow walk-ins, so call ahead and make a reservation.

We've Never Heard This One Before

ARRL staffers have heard a lot of stories from members about how they became interested in Amateur Radio, but, as Assistant Circulation Manager Kathy Capodicasa, N1GZO, says, "We've never heard this one before!" As she relates the story, she spoke to a mom who had placed an order on behalf of her young son for Now You're Talking and ARRL's Tech Q&A. "When I asked her how her son found out about these titles, she informed me that they had been at the dump and her 11-year-old son started snooping around among the magazines and newspapers dropped off for recycling, and he came across the July issue of QST," Capodicasa said. "She told me that he hasn't been able to put it down since." Of course, an easier--and less messy--way to find out more about Amateur Radio is to visit the ARRL Web site and on-line catalog <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>

The ARRL Letter 8/17/01

Technician License Classes

STARS, ARATS and the University of Buffalo Amateur Radio Club are co-sponsoring Technician license classes beginning September 10, 2001.

The classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 PM at the University of Buffalo's North (Amherst) Campus. They are open to all interested in amateur radio.



The classes are free. Study manuals may be purchased through the class or from outside vendors.

To register for the classes or for more information, contact Terry Rockhold K2OO at 656-0865 or by e-mail at k2oo@bigfoot.com.

New DX Cluster

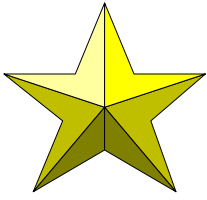
I am pleased to announce a new DX Cluster for the Western New York area, The KB2EOQ DX Cluster located in Fredonia, New York. The cluster is Internet only but is 24 hours per day. It can be accessed via Telnet to 208.15.25.196

This cluster was set up with the Western New York/Southern Tier ham in mind and has a local/announce feature that will allow local hams to talk with each other. Several Chautauqua County hams (KA2MGE, KA2SLC and others) have occasionally alerted others to DX via email, now the cluster may better facilitate communication among regional DXers. I can configure it to allow spots ONLY from North America but I will await user's feedback on that.

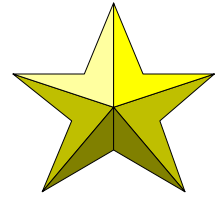


Give it a try! Spread the word!

Andy KB2EOQ obrienaj@netsync.net



STARS



CLUB REPEATERS

The club repeater (WB2ELW/R) is located near Colden, NY (147.09/.69 output/input, with a PL of 107.2 Hz). Autopatch privileges are available to club members.

STARS honorary southern repeater (KE2VW/R) is in Arkwright, NY (146.67/.07 out/in, with a PL of 107.2 Hz).

The club UHF repeater is located near Colden, NY (442.325 MHz with a PL access of 107.2 Hz.)

CLUB WEB PAGES

The club has a home site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.wb2elw.com>

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of the month at the Hamburg Youth Center (Prospect Ave. at Hawkins Ave.) at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Nike Base Club Station at 7:00 PM and are open to all club members.

CLUB HF STATIONS

The club Nike Base HF Station (WB2ELW) is located on Lakeview Road 1.75 miles east of Route 20 next to the Hamburg Town Arena. The station is operated on most Saturdays between 1 and 3 PM local time. A second club HF station is located at the Hamburg Youth Center.

STARS

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